

Claim 8, line 1: Delete "Fragments" and insert --A fragment--; delete "or the polypeptide as claimed in".

line 2: Delete "claim 2 or 3,"; delete "they" and insert --it is--.

9. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule coding for v-IL-6 [as claimed in claim 1], which is obtainable by recombinant expression of the DNA of human herpes virus type-8 (HHV-8).

10. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule coding for [the] a polypeptide [as claimed in claim 2], which is obtainable by recombinant expression of the DNA of HHV-8 and which comprises the amino acid sequence of Fig. 2.

Claim 11, line 1: Delete "displayed in" and insert --of--.

Claim 12, line 1: After "acid", insert --molecule--.

line 2: Delete "one or more of the claims 9 to" and insert --claim--.

Claim 13, line 1: Delete "directed against" and insert --which bind--; delete "," and insert --.---.

line 2: Delete the line.

Claim 14, line 1: After "comprising", insert --a container and--.

line 2: Delete "16" and insert --13--.

15. (Amended) Testkit for the detection of antibodies against v-IL-6, comprising [v-IL-6 as claimed in claim 1 and/or the] a polypeptide that binds said antibody [as claimed in claim 2 or 3 or both, claims 2 and 3, and/or mutants and variants of v-IL-6 as claimed in claim 7, and/or fragments of v-IL-6 as claimed in claims 4-6 or 8].

Claim 16, line 1: Delete "acic" and insert --acid molecule--.

line 2: Delete "one or more of claims 9 to 12" and
insert --claim 11--.

17. (Amended) A [medicament] pharmaceutical composition
comprising as an active ingredient [the] an IL-6-inhibiting an
effective amount of an antibody as claimed in claim 13 and a
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. (Amended) A [medicament] pharmaceutical composition
comprising as an active ingredient [v-IL-6 as claimed in claim
1 and/or] the polypeptide as claimed in claim 2 [or 3, and/or
mutants and variants of v-IL-6 as claimed in claim 7, and/or
fragments of v-IL-6 as claimed in claim 4-6 or 8] and a
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. A [medicament] pharmaceutical composition comprising
as an active ingredient the nucleic acid as claimed in [one or
more of claims 9 to 12] claim 11 and a pharmaceutically
acceptable carrier.

Claim 20, line 1: Delete "as an additional active ingredient".
line 2: Delete ", or the polypeptide as claimed in
claims 2 or 3, or mutants" and insert ---.
line 3: Delete the line.
line 4: Delete the line.

Please add new claims 28-35 as follows:

--28. A fragment of a polypeptide that is obtainable by
recombinant expression of the DNA of HHV-8 and which comprises
the amino acid sequence of Fig. 2. (See ID No. 2)

29. A monoclonal or polyclonal antibody which binds a
polypeptide that is obtainable by recombinant expression of the
DNA of HHV-8 and which comprises the amino acid sequence of Fig.
2, or a fragment thereof. (See ID No. 2)

30. The testkit of claim 15, wherein said polypeptide is
v-IL-6 or a fragment thereof.